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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/931,309	08/17/2001	Tetsuo Nakamura	Q65828	3931

7590 01/15/2003

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EXAMINER

CHEA, THORL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1752

DATE MAILED: 01/15/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/931,309

Applicant(s)

NAKAMURA ET AL.

Examiner

Thorl Chea

Art Unit

1752

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on November 12, 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 10 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims 10 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. & 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's election without traverse of claims 1-9 in Paper No. 4 is acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The scope of protection sought for the compound (I) is confusing as to whether the scope of Y and Z is limited Y-1 to Y-26 or otherwise since Y, Z, L defined in lines 3-11 encompasses the scope beyond those presented in the ring forming a condensed ring Y-1 to Y26. Note for instance when L is 1, there are two methine groups associated with the condensed ring and the heterocyclic ring defining Y and Z may contain atoms other than S, N and O presented in formula Y-1 to Y-26.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 3, 5-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over JP62-204250 (JP'250).

See (JP'250) on page 311; compound 17 and page 315 compound 73.

JP'250 discloses the compound of the claimed invention, which contains a thiophene ring and substituted with halogen atom (chlorine). Therefore, the invention as claimed lacks novelty. Moreover, the JP'250 discloses a methine dye containing at least one methine one group. Note for instance to the exemplified compound on pages 311-313 wherein the methine dyes contain 1, 2, or 3 methine groups. It would have been obvious to the worker of ordinary skill in the art to form a dye taught in JP'250 having one or more methine groups such as taught therein to provide silver halide material having spectral sensitivity to light in different light spectrum, and thereby provide a material as claimed.

7. Claims 1, 3, 4-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over JP61-277950 (JP'950). See compound No. 112 on page 577 which contains a pyrrole ring which condenses with 6-membered carbocyclic ring and thiophene ring substituted with chlorine atom; and compound 90 and 103 on page 576 which contains a thiophene substituted with a

chlorine atom JP'950 discloses the compound of the claimed invention which contains a thiophene ring and substituted with halogen atom (chlorine) and methine compound having a pyrrole ring of the claimed invention. Therefore, the invention as claimed lacks novelty. Moreover, the JP'950 discloses a methine dye containing at least one methine one group. Note for instance to the exemplified compound on page 571 which contains 1, 2, and 3 methine groups. It would have been obvious to the worker of ordinary skill in the art to form a dye taught in JP'950 having one or more methine group such as taught therein to provide silver halide material having spectral sensitivity to light in different light spectrum, and thereby provide a material as claimed.

8. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over P2000-63690 ('690). See compound D-38 in columns 35-36 which is within the scope of claim 3 wherein the compound contains thiophene ring substituted with chlorine atom. Therefore, the invention as claimed lacks novelty. Alternatively, it would have been obvious to the worker of ordinary skill in the art to use the dye taught in P'690 to provide with an expectation of achieving a photosilver halide material having similar spectral sensitivity.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

10. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is


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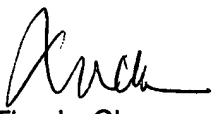
requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thorl Chea whose telephone number is (703) 308-3498. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30 - 6:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Janet C Baxter can be reached on (703) 308-2303. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9301 for regular communications and (703)872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-0661.

tchea 
January 11, 2003


Thorl Chea
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1752